The Sunday School Service.

BY DAVID BAILEY.

Nov. 9th 1884.

The Wisdom of Solomon.—1Kings 10 : 1—13.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here.—Matt. 12 : 42.

[*Open the Bible and read the lesson.*]

INTRODUCTION.

A period of about ten years has passed since the dedication of the temple. The heart of Israel's young king has been rejoiced by great prosperity, and he had not yet displeased the Almighty by looking after strange gods. It is supposed that he had formed a co-partnership with Hiram, king of Tyre, the latter furnishing the fleet, while Solomon manned it. These ships carried spices, gold, and precious stones from the nations of the east to western parts where there was sale for them.

Some of these ships visited the Red sea, and a prosperous queen, whose kingdom was in Arabia, heard from these sailors what she supposed to be exaggerated stories of the wisdom, power and glory of their northern king. But she, too, in some way, had heard of the One-God faith ; it is even conjectured that she was a descendant of Abraham, and that the tradition had been handed down from generation to generation.

It would appear that something of this kind would be necessary to cause her to undertake such a journey.

Solomon's renown was not a military glory, in this respect he rested on his father's reputation, but his glory was in his riches and his wisdom. Of the immensity of Solomon's traffic we may judge from the following : "Now the weight of the gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred, threescore and six talents of gold'"—1 Kings 10 : 14.

LESSON.

Verse 1. "The queen of Sheba." The land was also called Sabæa,and was in southern Arabia. The kingdom was noted for its wealth, and was afterward called "Arabia the Blest." "Fame * * concerning the name of the Lord." It seems that Solomon's glory came through his connection with the Lord. "Prove." Examine. She doubted his being as wise as he was reported to be, and being herself a seeker after knowledge she wished to test the wisdom of this famous man, and if he was as great in wisdom as he had been represented to be, she felt it would be a great pleasure to converse with him.

Verse 2. "Came to Jerusalem." It was a journey of fifteen hundred miles and was quite an undertaking in those days of slow travel. "With spices." Arabia is noted for its spices. It is said that the perfume of them is often wafted far out on the sea. Gold is not found in Arabia, but there is a tradition that it was once noted for that precious metal. "Communed." Held conversation with him. "Of all that was in her heart." We are not informed as to what troubled her mind. Some writers think she had heard something of the Jewish religion and was not satisfied on that point, but it may have been that it was matters concerning government which she discussed with him.

Verse 3. "Solomon told her." Answered all her questions. She did not puzzle him at all.

Verse 4. "House." Not the temple, but the royal palace.

Verse 5. "The meat of his table." The wonderful quality and variety of meats. She also noticed as remarkable his servants and their livery and the stairway leading up to the temple. "There was no more spirit in her." She came up, no doubt, with some degree of pride in her wealth and knowledge, but when she saw Solomon's establishment and saw the arrangements of which she had never thought, her proud spirit was humbled.

Verse 6. "True report." Showing that she scarcely expected to find it true.

Verse 7. "The half was not told me." She saw many things which she thought remarkable of which she had never heard.

Verse 8. "Happy are thy men." It should always be a pleasure to be in the presence of the wise and great.

Verse 9. "Because the Lord loved Israel." She could not have given the king a greater compliment. To be accounted worthy to rule the nation which God loved above all others is a great honor.

Verse 10. "One hundred and twenty talents." Estimated at three million dollars. "Spices." They were very plentiful in Arabia.

Verse 11. "Ophir." An eastern country which cannot now be identified, but is supposed by some to have been situated on the eastern coast of Africa. "Almug trees." Supposed to be the same as sandal wood.

Verse 12. "Pillars for the house of the Lord." Supposed to be banisters for the stairways. This sandal wood was from the island of Ceylon, and was a heavy fine-grained wood of a beautiful garnet color, and was used in making musical instruments and ornamenting the interior of fine houses.

Verse 13. "All her desire." Whatever she expressed a desire to possess. This was in addition to the royal present set apart for her by the king. "Went to her own country." The journey would require about three months. She traveled with a royal retinue which would make a large caravan.

From Boonsboro, Md.

DEAR EVANGELIST : We, the Beaver Creek congregation, held our communion service in Mt Pleasant chapel, on Friday evening, Oct. 17th. We met at four o'clock, and brother J. D. McFaden, our new pastor, talked to us from the pulpit, of the beautiful lesson of love, of humility, of sacrifice, and of devotion, taught us by Mary, when with the costly ointment of spikenard, she annointed the feet of her Savior.

At the close of his talk, brother E. S. Miller, our former pastor, who has accepted a call to Coventry, Ohio, and who had never been ordained as bishop, was, by authority of the unanimous voice of the church, ordained by brother Andrew Cost, who has long been the bishop of Beaver Creek congregation, and brother McFaden. As the brethren stood with hands upon the bowed head of brother Miller, the calm quiet of the evening, the sinking sun sending a few last lingering rays of yellow light through the open doors, making ever-varying pictures of gold upon the walls, the almost breathless hush of the congregation, the fervent, earnest tones of our dearly loved brother, Cost, as he prayed God's richest blessings on the labors of him who shall so soon leave us, to work in other fields, the clear, distinct and rich utterances by brother McFaden, of that prayer which carries us far back into the shadowy past when the Savior taught his disciples to pray,—all these made the occasion a very solemn and impressive one, and one that will long be remembered by those present.

Brother Miller has been an earnest, faithful worker, and richly deserves the love and esteem which he has won from the brethren and sisters here ; and though we now give him the parting hand, feeling loth to part with him, our prayers follow him. We pray the Father that in his new field of labor he may find many warm-hearted brethren and sisters, and may win many precious jewels for the Master's crown.

Later in the evening brother McFaden gave us an entertaining and instructive talk on the subject of self-examination, earnestly exhorting us to examine *ourselves* and not *each other*, and also on the subject of feet-washing.

At the Lord's table, brother Cost officiated. At the close of the services brother Miller spoke a few words of farewell, and then, after singing a hymn, we "went out, and it was night," and we all felt that it was good to have been there.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.

Boonsboro, Md., Oct. 21.

A Surprise.

On the 16th of this month, while we were busy at work on our farm, we were surprised by the appearance of sister Homan and sister Dague so early in the morning. Soon others came, and still they came, until all the brethren and sisters of this church, but four, were present, and neighbors and friends more remote came, to the number of fifty or sixty, when we were informed that they wanted to do something. Some went to the woods to cut wood ; others to the cornfield to shuck, and the ladies, in the meantime, went to work on two comforters.

It commenced to rain about noon, when the barnfloor was cleaned and the tables set in the barn, and loaded with the richest viands, to which all did full justice. The rain was soon over, when all went to work again. When they went home, we had several cords of wood cut, and our corn nearly all in the crib, and the comforters the sisters had made they presented to us with the names of the donors pinned on the blocks. Also a new dress, trimmed even down to the buttons and thread with which to make it. Other gifts were also given, which space will not allow me to mention.

The surprise was a success. The presents and labor highly appreciated, and the meeting of so many of our brethren and sisters and friends at our home, the social intercourse and partaking of such a sumptuous meal together, was altogether lovely.

We feel encouraged to make greater sacrifices for the cause of Christ than ever before. And while we are truly grateful to you, dear friends, we pray God to bless you abundantly in this world, and in the world to come grant you eternal life. HENRY S. JACOBS.

LUCRETIA E. JACOBS.

Homer, O.

From Homer, Ohio

DEAR EVANGELIST : We have nothing special to contribute to your columns by way of church news.

The church at this place is moving on in the even tenor of its way without anything of which to boast or complain. Our congregations are tolerably good, and always very attentive. Last Sunday we had, perhaps, the smallest congregation for this season ; but I tried to preach as if the house were full.

A week ago last Sunday I tried to preach at a school house in Chatham, to a good audience, and had excellent attention. I shall fill an appointment at this place every four weeks, at least during the winter. I think this is a good point for meetings.

Our Sunday school has closed for this season. We had a very interesting Sunday school at our meeting house this summer. It was not so largely attended, but everyone seemed interested in the work, and seemingly deplored the necessity of closing the school for this winter. The teachers were generally present and ready to instruct their classes ; the scholars eager to receive instruction ; and all seemed to enjoy themselves, and last, but not least, all generally stayed for preaching, which made me feel extremely happy. I have long since become very much attached to this people; especially to the dear brethren and sisters here. A more generous, kind-hearted people are hard to find. More anon.

HENRY S. JACOBS.

Oct. 20, 1884.

From Dry Creek Congregation, Ohio.

DEAR BRETHREN : As we have not been reported for some time, I thought I would write a few items.

The Gospel train is still moving on in this part of the vineyard.

Our lovefeast is past and will be long remembered ; it being the first communion that we have had since our organization. Brethren David Rittenhouse and Henry Keiser were with us on this occasion.

On account of the U. B. Quarterly Meeting we could not get their house, but our friend Peter Kintner kindly offered us the use of his house,

We have no church house yet, but we have a little band of faithful workers who are not ashamed to bear the cross.

Two were added to the church by baptism, and others are almost persuaded. May God bless our labors.

G. W. FILHOWR.

Sherwood, O.

From Nickerson, Kansas.

DEAR EVANGELIST : On the fourth of Oct., we met at the Olmstead school house, and transacted the business of our third quarterly council. Everything passed off nicely. We decided to take a share in Ashland College. Although we are poor in this world's goods, yet we consider it a duty we owe to God and the church, to help pay this debt.

Our church is in a prosperous condition. There have been five additions this summer by baptism. The prospects are good for an ingathering of souls.

S. W. LEHMAN.

From Peabody, Kans.

DEAR EVANGELIST; Our communion services passed off pleasantly on Saturday, Oct. 12. Elder Jacob W. Beer of Nickerson, Kansas, was with us, also brother Mercer and wife of Riverton, Reno county, Kansas. The Conservative ministers here are better disposed towards us lately, and seem sorry that they have locked us out of the church house. We always thought they would repent in due time. D. R. STONER.

Erratta--Beaverdam Meeting.

In the article on the Beaverdam meeting I made two mistakes. The yearly meeting at Isaac Deardorf's was held in 1847, not 1848.

The boarding tent was said to be one hundred and twenty feet long, and forty feet wide, not forty-five feet wide.

OBED SNOWBERGER.

How to be Happy.

Said a venerable farmer eighty years of age, to a relative who lately visited him, "I have lived on this farm more than half a century. I have no desire to change my residence as long as I live on earth. I have no wish to be any richer than I am now. I have worshiped the God of my fathers with the same people for more than forty years. During that period I have rarely ever been absent from the sanctuary on the Sabbath, and never lost but one communion season. The blessings of God have been spread around me, and I made up my mind long ago, that, if I wished to be any happier, *I must have more religion.*

A Model Wife.

The model husband and wife love each other, not because they are rich ; not because they are highly educated ; not because of outward charms. But they love each other because there is a beauty in them that never fades, never dies, never decays. The beauty of the mind ; the beauty of the heart, the beauty of the soul. I think Shakespeare must have had this in his mind when he has his Desdemona to apologize for her love for the Moor, in saying, "I saw Othello's visage in his mind." It is the inner qualities and not the outside qualities upon which to base a choice.

A great many husbands and wives love each other for a while after marriage, but it soon dies out, almost before the festivities of their wedding day is passed away. This is what I call fancy, misdirected passion, and frenzy. When strife and hatred comes into the home of married life and love departs, the fault lies mostly at the door of the husband. I notice he is generally the first to change ; the first to find fault ; the first to start a quarrel ; the first to cast a cloud over the sunshine. The wife who expects constant attention and unceasing affection, finds him changed and neglectful in a short time.

The woman left a peaceful, happy home, the home of her childhood, to become your wife. She may not be perfect on account of her inexperience and youth. She may not be a model wife, but you took her for better or for worse, and if she is worse maybe you made her so. Good husbands generally make good wives. If you are a model husband, you can make her just what you want her.

Do not scold her nor talk too much about what she ought to be to you ; about her reverence for you or her obedience to you. Treat her kindly. That is the best way to make a lovely wife. When you close up your store, lock up that frown that is on your face, and go home and talk to your wife. Do not go home with a mad looking face, and sit down and eat your supper in silence. That makes her afraid of you ; makes your children run away from you, and your servants curse you.

The model husband should love his wife and cherish her till she dies. When the charms of youth have fled, when her step no more has the elasticity of maidenhood, and the voice becomes slow and faltering, when the sprightly form, and beautiful features have become disfigured with age, he should love her still.

Speak kindly to her. She may have left a home of cherished love. Speak tenderly. She may be growing old. Speak gently and kindly, for her heart is full of love for you. One cheerful word, one bright smile, will fill her heart to overflowing.

Woman's strength lies in her heart ; man's strength in his head. Both have head and heart, but by eminence he is head and she is heart. The model wife says, "My husband is the head of the family, and as such I will obey him." She will be subject to the will of her husband. Not the slave. No husband has the right to usurp this kind of authority over a woman. She is not bound to do anything that violates the dictates of her conscience, or her idea of the equality of companionship.

The model wife will not find fault. He may say things, but if she is a model wife, she will bear it in silence. There is a power in silence greater than in antagonism. The lightning rod outside the house does not thunder or make a noise, but it has power to carry away the electric fluid that does make a noise. Silence is one of the powerful attributes of a model woman. She also knows how to keep house and make it attractive. She will be as anxious to please her husband after marriage as before. Dress well and try to look beautiful. Be gentle and cheerful.

The model wife should know how to cook. The nearest way to your husband's purse and heart is right through his stomach. If you want him to smile upon you and call you "Dear," remember that he cannot do that with sour bread in his stomach. The science of the kitchen is no mean science. Men are not like an eight-day clock to be wound up with a good dinner every Sunday. They are more like a watch, to be wound up every day.

God bless the man that gets a model wife. She will make a man of him. He owes his rank and position to her, and their mutual affection and happiness will continue undisturbed while life remains.

When thou doest good, do it because it is good—not because men esteem it so. When thou avoidest evil, flee from it because it is an evil—not because men speak against it. Be honest for the love of honesty, and thou shalt be uniformly so.

As the tree is fertilized by its own broken branches and falling leaves, and grows out of its decay, so men and nations are bettered and improved by trials, and refined out of broken hopes and blighted expectations.